

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Apex Plating and Polishing - Removal Polrep
Initial Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region II

Subject: POLREP #1
Initial SitRep: Apex Electroplating
Apex Plating and Polishing

Linden, NJ
Latitude: 40.6335030 Longitude: -74.2393783

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From: Neil Norrell, Michael Hoppe, OSCs

Date: 5/8/2014

Reporting Period: 5/7-5/8/2014

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Contract Number:
D.O. Number:	Action Memo Date:
Response Authority: CERCLA	Response Type: Emergency
Response Lead: EPA	Incident Category: Removal Assessment
NPL Status: Non NPL	Operable Unit:
Mobilization Date: 5/8/2014	Start Date:
Demob Date:	Completion Date:
CERCLIS ID:	RCRIS ID:
ERNS No.:	State Notification:
FPN#:	Reimbursable Account #:

1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency response at an abandoned electroplating facility.

1.1.2 Site Description

The Site is a medium sized former electroplating facility.

1.1.2.1 Location

The Site is located in a generally industrialized and light commercial area of Linden, NJ, a major metropolitan area of approx. 50,000 residents.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The Site was under a NJDEP clean up order for EP chemicals but the owners died before completing the clean-up. Heirs of the property have no clear ability to continue the clean up and have essentially abandoned the Site. A follow up by NJDEP RCRA personnel on May 7, 2014 resulted in the current situation coming to light. NJDEP ER staff responded to the Site the same day and secured it and drums of overpacked cyanide compounds. The NJDEP requested that EPA perform a site assessment on May 8, 2014.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

Early results of the EPA assessment revealed the presence of leaking drums of chemicals, drums of unknown chemicals, drums containing cyanide residue, acids, caustics and lab-pack sized chemical containers.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

5/8/2014 0900: EPA OSCs Norrell and Hoppe responded to the Apex Electroplating site to meet NJDEP Responders and a compliance and enforcement officer.

EPA performed an entry with the NJDEP and documented over 300 labeled containers, including lab pack chemicals, drums and vats with associating plating wastes. Many unlabeled containers remained throughout the building as well.

Some labels included: Potassium Cyanide, Nitric Acid, Aluminum Biflouride, Nickel Stripper, Flouroboric Acid, Nickel, Sulfuric Acid, Nickel Chloride, Nickel Carbonate, Hydrochloric Acid, Hydrogen Peroxide, Sodium Hydroxide, Copper Pyro Phosphate, Glacial Acetic Acid. Also open vats with liquid wastes and open drums with sludge wastes persisted throughout the building.

The building has broken windows and multiple leaks in the roof that allowed for the heavy overnight rains to impact the material inside that were unsecured or previously released on the floors and drains. Purple, yellow and green dusts persisted on the floors and orange, yellow and blue crystals were noted in open top drums, on the floor and contained within unsecured materials being inappropriately stored. Open top drums with commingled sludges and solids were noted throughout the building as well.

EPA and NJDEP left the Site at 1300.

EPA received a referral from the NJDEP on the afternoon of 5/8/2014.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

In progress.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Activate ERRS and RST for Site categorization and stabilization of hazardous materials on-Site. Disposal of materials. As a work plan is developed, this page will be updated.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

Mobilization of personnel and equipment to Site to conduct a removal action.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

Coordinate with resources to conduct Site activities.

2.2.2 Issues

Site stabilization of hazardous chemicals.

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

2.4.1 Narrative

Verbal funding was obtained on 5/8/2014 to begin addressing the Site.

2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

NJDEP

4. Personnel On Site

No information available at this time.

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information**6.1 Internet location of additional information/report****6.2 Reporting Schedule**

TBD.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.